

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07119 211234Z
ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 /004 W
-----211237Z 122936 /50
O 211130Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7689

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7119

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. RE PRESEL (TO SUPPLEMENT MOSCOW 7113 AND PARA 3, MOSCOW 7114):
ASIDE FROM THE INCIDENTS MENTIONED IN THAT CABLE, THERE HAS BEEN
SUSTAINED TELEPHONIC HARASSMENT EVERY NIGHT FOR THE LAST TEN
DAYS, AND JOE HAS AGAIN BEEN FOLLOWED REGULARLY BY ONE OR MORE
CARS. THE LENINGRAD TRAVEL TURNDOWN WAS MERELY THE MOST BLATANT
EXAMPLE TO DATE. IN FACT THE HARASSMENT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL TO
THE EXTENT THAT JOE IS
NOW OUT OF THE DISSIDENT BUSINESS ALTOGETHER (THE LAST ATTEMPTED
MEETING WITH SLEPAK (MAY 7) ON THE LATTER'S INITIATIVE WAS
PREVENTED WHEN SLEPAK AND SON WERE HAULED AWAY BY KGB WHEN TRYING
TO ENTER JOE'S APARTMENT (MOSCOW 6365)). GIVEN THE TIMING OF THE
MOST RECENT INCIDENTS AND THE FACT THAT JOE HAS SEEN NO
DISSIDENTS FOR A MONTH OR MORE, WE WONDER IF THERE MIGHT NOT
BE A SOVIET SIGNAL IN THE NEW HARASSMENT. BEFORE THIS GROMYKO-
VANCE MEETING, AS BEFORE THE LAST ONE, SOVIET HARASSMENT
INCREASED DRAMATICALLY, AS THOUGH THE SOVIETS WERE TRYING TO SAY
THAT NOTWITHSTANDING PROGRESS IN SALT, THE MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER
BIG PICTURE STUFF THE SOVIETS ARE DETERMINED TO NEUTRALIZE
JOE AND REDUCE (OR IF POSSIBLE ELIMINATE) EMBASSY CONTACTS
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WITH REFUSENIKS, DISSIDENTS AND THE LIKE.

2. APPRECIATE YOUR CALLING JIM AND TELLING HIM:
A. NELL IS IN SUMMER SCHOOL AT DUKE AND WILL BE THERE UNTIL
JUNE 11. SHE MOVED HER ROOM AND DID NOT TELL US WHERE SHE
IS LIVING. GRADUATE CENTER RECEPTION DESK MAY KNOW.
B. WE DO NOT YET HAVE BILL FROM MIDDLEBURY, BUT IT MAY

COME IN THIS WEEKEND'S MAIL. IF HE KNOWS EXACT AMOUNT
AND DATE DUE, I CAN SEND WITHOUT WAITING FOR BILL.
C. LETTER MAILED TO HIM TODAY RE OTHER MATTERS.
IF YOU CANNOT CONTACT HIM LET ME KNOW AND I WILL TRY TO
PUT CALL THROUGH NEXT WEEK.

3. WE WILL BE ANSWERING CABLE FROM SPRINGSTEEN AND
ARMITAGE. WE SYMPATHIZE FULLY WITH OBJECTIVES OF ASSIGNMENT
AS EXHIBIT GUIDES, BUT OUR GSO OPERATION IS UNDER INCREDIBLE
PRESSURE, WHICH IS GROWING RAPIDLY. TO NAME A FEW: POWER
SWITCHOVER, FBO TEAM AND NEW CHANCERY, FIRE PREVENTION
RENOVATIONS, PREPARATION OF NEW SCHOOL -- AND I COULD GO
ON AND ON. WE'RE LOSING TWO OFFICERS THIS SUMMER. THERE
IS JUST NO WAY WE CAN COPE WITH LESS THAN FOUR REASONABLY
WELL TRAINED AND SOMEWHAT EXPERIENCED OFFICERS ON BOARD.
WHAT ARE WE TO DO? PUT OFF NEW EMBASSY PREPARATIONS
ANOTHER YEAR? FORGET KIEV? DELAY FIRE PREVENTION
MEASURES? REFUSE NEW SCHOOL? FEED 220V POWER INTO
127 CIRCUITS? PROPOSAL AS WE RECEIVED IT IS TANTAMOUNT
TO PROPOSING THAT WE VIRTUALLY CLOSE EMBASSY FOR SIX
MONTHS. WE'LL TRY TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE,
BUT EVEN WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO COPE WITH A TOTALLY
IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION, WHATEVER THE LONG-TERM BENEFITS.
WE DON'T REALLY LIKE THE IDEA OF ONE-YEAR TOURS FOR
HALF THE GSO SECTION AND ARE SURPRISED THAT THERE IS A
PROSPECT OF RECRUITING TWO FOR THIS SUMMER WITH AT
LEAST S-2, R-2 RUSSIAN, WHICH IS LEVEL WE NEED IN THESE
JOBS. BUT WE'LL EXPLAIN ALL THIS IN CABLE. FRITH VISIT
WENT VERY WELL INDEED, AND HE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP WITH
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GEORGE WHEN HE RETURNS.
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NNN

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